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Trends

ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, January 29, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended January 24 totaled an estimated 18.2 billion ton-miles, 2.3 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 4 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 67.4 billion ton-miles, 0.5 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended January 24 totaled 436,869 cars, 2.8 percent below 1980, but 4.0 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 3.0 percent in the East, 0.9 percent in the South and 3.7 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 17 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings were up 8,156 cars, or 7.9 percent, metallic ores 2,170 cars, or 9.2 percent, and grain 1,745 cars, or 5.3 percent. Fifteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended January 17 totaled 30,767 cars, down 10.3 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 55,949 trailers and/or containers, 10.4 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 3 weeks of the year was 79,360 cars, 11.7 percent lower than last year, and 143,071 trailers and/or containers, down 12.0 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 01/24/81:

	Loadings in Week ended January 24, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	34,547	I	1,745	5.3	D	861	2.4
Other farm products	4,331	D	334	7.2	D	958	18.1
Metallic ores	25,834	I	2,170	9.2	D	276	1.1
Coal	111,716	I	8,156	7.9	I	8,509	8.2
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,506	D	2,372	18.4	I	429	4.3
Nonmetallic minerals	13,376	D	765	5.4	I	491	3.8
Grain mill products	16,822	D	2,503	13.0	I	986	6.2
Food and kindred products	17,490	D	2,229	11.3	I	544	3.2
Primary forest products	19,917	D	1,135	5.4	D	38	0.2
Lumber and wood products except furniture	9,078	D	2,215	19.6	I	737	8.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	21,243	D	893	4.0	I	747	3.6
Chemicals and allied products	28,236	D	696	2.4	I	1,632	6.1
Petroleum products	6,623	D	187	2.7	I	709	12.0
Stone, clay and glass products	13,894	D	2,319	14.3	I	907	7.0
Coke	6,120	D	545	8.2	I	436	7.7
Metals and products	16,290	D	1,724	9.6	I	1,320	8.8
Motor vehicles and equipment	15,997	D	2,237	12.3	D	652	3.9
Waste and scrap materials	13,245	D	498	3.6	D	152	1.1
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,404	D	1,134	9.8	I	1,230	13.4
All other carloads	40,871	D	2,834	6.5	I	1,139	2.9
LCL traffic	329	I	61	22.8	I	99	43.0
Total Cars Loaded	436,869	D	12,488	2.8	I	16,978	4.0
Corresponding week of 1980	449,357						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (4 weeks)	1,607,350	1,700,001	D	5.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
3 Weeks cumulative	49.2	49.3	D	0.2
Week ended January 24	18.2	17.8	I	2.3
4 Weeks cumulative	67.4	67.1	I	0.5

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